

### REMARKS

#### Request for Continued Examination

Applicant respectfully requests continued examination of the above-indicated application as per 37 CFR 1.114.

5 **Response to Claim Objections**

Regarding claim 8, applicant has amended claim 8 to correct the informality "comprising following steps" to "comprising the following steps". This correction is purely typographical in nature and does not affect or introduce new material to the subject matter disclosed.

10 **Response to Claim Rejections**

**Claims 8 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakajima et al. (US 2001/006500 A1)**

Regarding claim 8, applicant has amended the above claim to further distinguish and highlight the novelty of the present invention in view of the teachings of

15 Nakajima. All amendments are fully supported in the existing specification, with no additional subject matter introduced.

Particularly, applicant has included the limitation of each buffer connected to a delay cell "for receiving a delay bit of the delay signal transmitted from the delay cell".

This limitation contrasts the teachings of Nakajima et al, as Fig. 10 of Nakajima

20 illustrates the buffers (DFF<sub>16</sub> as interpreted by the Examiner) of Nakajima cannot each receive a delay bit from a delay cell (DFF<sub>17</sub> as interpreted by the Examiner) as the structural layout of Nakajima prevents a direct transmission in the direction from DFF<sub>17</sub> to DFF<sub>16</sub>. Additionally, the examiner has revealed in the remarks for allowable subject matter regarding claim 1, that Nakajima fails to teach the above described

25 limitation.

For at least the above described reasons, applicant kindly requests reconsideration for the allowance of currently amended claim 8.

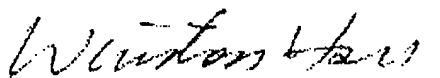
30 Regarding claims 11 and 12, applicant asserts that these claims are dependant upon currently amended claim 8. Therefore, should an allowance be made for claim 8.

applicant kindly requests that allowances be similarly made for claims 11 and 12 as being dependent upon claim 8.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Sincerely yours,



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